



Korn Gallery

Dorothy Young Center for the Arts
Drew University
Madison, NJ 07940

Return Service Requested

Claire Sherman

New Paintings

October 17 - November 21, 2014

Reception:

November 7, 2014, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 12:30 - 4:00 PM

Selected weekends and by appointment

For more information please call (973) 408 - 3758

www.drew.edu/korngallery

Trees, 2013, Oil on Canvas, 102 x 84"

Trees on the edge of being trees in new Korn show

TAYLOR TRACY
Student Life and Arts Editor

A few more trees have sprouted on campus, but they're not planted outside. Instead they're hanging on the walls of the Korn Gallery as part of "New Paintings," an exhibit featuring the work of Assistant Professor of art Claire Sherman.

Included in the exhibit are four large paintings of sequoia and redwood trees from California and Nevada, as well as five small studies that draw from different aspects of nature.

About the philosophy behind this latest body of work, Sherman said, "I'm interested in confusing scale in painting and the line between abstraction and representation."

Explaining the relationship in size between painting and viewer, she added, "The scale invites you in while also rejecting you slightly." Sherman's paintings are near-abstractions of giant trees, only showing a part of their trunks on the large canvases.

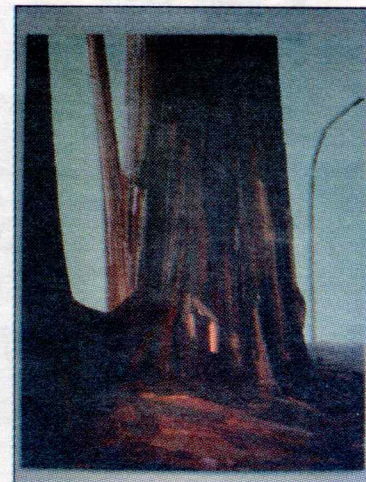
About her use of color, Sherman said she wanted to use "electricity of color."

She also said, "Today, computer screens inform how we experience color so they feel like they were painted in the studio." Drewid Grace Cerra ('17) was drawn to these colors. About which works in Sherman's show were her favorite, she said, "In terms of color, I like the ones with more red in them."

Cerra also spoke of her first reaction to Sherman's show, "It's nature and a lot of them look like they're from the same location." She added, "They make me feel like I'm wandering around the forest."

To achieve this sense of locational specificity, Sherman travels often, which informs her artwork. She noted, "Travel is a big part of how I work artistically... the experience of being there and the physicality of space."

Sherman traveled to the West Coast to see these trees, creating her paintings from photographs and memory of her travels. About the subject matter of the work in



ALEXANDRA KEMPER/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"New Paintings" features studies of nature by Assistant Professor of art Claire Sherman (left). The show also includes several large near-abstractions of sequoia and redwood trees (right).

this latest series, she said, "It tends to be all natural things that have human psychology embedded in them." About her influences for this project, Sherman said, "I've been doing a lot of reading of travel writers and early female travelers like Isabella Bird... and also John Muir."

Cerra saw a connection between Sherman's work and her class this semester on nature writing. She said, "We're talking about how

and why we look at certain things in nature as beautiful... This kind of captures that." Discussing how Sherman's work brings the beauty of nature out in a relatable form, Cerra said, "If it's not literally right in our backyard, we don't have a tendency to appreciate nature."

Noting what she hopes students will take away from seeing her work, Sherman said, "I hope it's an opportunity to think about

surface and mark-making." An exhibit drawing from this same series of work was displayed earlier this year in the DC Moore Gallery in New York. (Her work has also been shown in Chicago.) The exhibit is on view in the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts Tuesday through Friday from 12:30-4 p.m. and by appointment until Nov. 21. A reception will be held on Nov. 7 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.